

Ministry Map

A Closer Look Class Booklet



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Ministry Map

What follows is a map for ministry. It’s a way of thinking theologically and should do ministry at First Free. It is organized around five big questions:¹

- **Message:** What is our main message?
- **Mission:** What is our main mission? (to make disciples)
- **Maturity Profile:** What are the marks of a maturing disciple?
- **Ministry Principles:** What are the general principles that guide us?
- **Ministry Practices:** What are our specific practices for making disciples?

Our Message (Part 1)²

We believe the Bible has one main message – the gospel. The story it culminates in the person and work of Jesus Christ. This gospel, according to 1 Cor. 15:1). Therefore, it is our main message. In its simplest form, the gospel is for our sins (1 Cor. 15:3). However, there are many theological implications are spelled out in our Statement of Faith.

Our Mission

We don’t get to decide what our mission is.

The mission of the church is to go into the world and make disciples of Jesus Christ in the power of the Spirit and gathering these disciples so they might worship and obey Jesus Christ now and in eternity to the glory of God the Father.

We get to put Christ’s mission in our own words.

We exist to make disciples of Jesus Christ who glorify God as the grace of the gospel grows in all peoples.

¹The questions are adapted from D. Willis W. Sell, “A Map for Ministry Construction,” D. Willis W. Sell, ed., *Ministry Construction* (Dallas: Dallas Theological Seminary, 1988), 10-11.

According to our Statement of Faith, “We believe that God’s justifying grace must not be separated from His sanctifying power and purpose.”

- Those who are saved by grace through faith are saved for good works (Eph. 2:8-10).
- Those who believe the gospel will be transformed by the gospel (2 Cor. 3:18; 1 Thess. 2:13).
- True disciples of Jesus Christ will grow in grace (2 Pt. 3:18); they will bear fruit (Jn. 15:1-11).

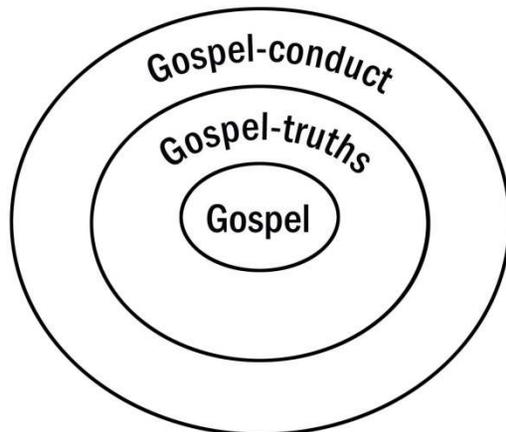
The goal of gospel growth and discipleship is maturity in Christ for the glory of God (Eph. 4:13; Col. 1:28) and that growth will be according to the image of Christ (Rom. 8:28; 2 Cor. 3:18). In other words, that growth will be shaped by the gospel.

The Image of Christ

- **Creation:** We were created in the image of God to fill the earth with the glory of God (Gen. 1:26-28).
- **Fall:** In our sin the image of God is not erased (Gen 5:1-2), but we no longer image God’s glory the way we were intended to (Gen. 3).
- **Redemption:** In Christ we’re not only saved from our sin, we’re being transformed into the image of Christ (Rom. 8:29; 2 Cor. 3:18; Col. 3:10), the perfect image of God (2 Cor. 4:4; Col. 1:15). This transformation is from one degree of glory to another (2 Cor. 3:18). It’s not perfect in this life...
- **Consummation:** But when Christ returns and we are raised in glory, we will perfectly bear the image of Christ (1 Cor. 15:49).

The Functional Centrality of the Gospel

It’s impossible to give an exhaustive list of what a mature disciple who’s growing in the grace of the gospel looks like. But we can give examples of what disciples look like who are being transformed and conformed into the image of Christ. And we can show how good works are patterned after the gospel. The following model helps us see how gospel growth is according to the image of Christ.⁴



- At the center is the gospel itself. This is what God has done in Christ (e.g. 1 Cor. 15:3).
- In middle ring are gospel truths. These are the theological implications of the gospel (e.g. Rom. 8:1).
- The outer ring contains gospel conduct. These are the behavioral implications of the gospel (e.g. Eph. 5:25).

1. Disciples growing in grace will love one another.

- Gospel:
- Truths:
- Conduct:

2. Disciples growing in grace will live at peace with one another.

- Gospel:
- Truths:
- Conduct:

3. Disciples growing in grace will have humility.

- Gospel:
- Truths:
- Conduct:

4. Disciples growing in grace will endure in the faith with joy.

- Gospel:
- Truths:
- Conduct:

5. Disciples growing in grace will obey the will of God.

- Gospel:
- Truths:
- Conduct:

6. Disciples growing in grace will give generously.

- Gospel:
- Truths:
- Conduct:

7. Disciples growing in grace will serve sacrificially.

- Gospel:
- Truths:
- Conduct:

8. Disciples growing in grace will have compassion on the lost

- Gospel:
- Truths:
- Conduct:

Principles for Gospel Growth

1. The goal of growth: the glory of God.
2. The process of gospel growth: progress not perfection.
3. The motivation of gospel growth: grace not legalism.
4. The power of gospel growth: the Word and Spirit.

At First Free we believe God has not only provided us grace through the gospel of Jesus Christ, First Free we are committed to certain ministry practices that intentionally give us certain means of ministering this grace as we make disciples. What follows are the ministry principles that guide our mission of making disciples. We are committed to the following...

1. **The Word does the work.** Disciples grow in grace through the Word and Spirit. The Word does the work through the power of the Spirit.
 - a. We will seek to be faithful.
 - b. We will seek to be clear.
 - c. We will seek to be relevant.
 - d. We will seek the work of the Holy Spirit.
2. **Prayer is powerful.** Disciples grow in grace through prayer. God uses prayer to accomplish his powerful work.
3. **Love is committed.** Disciples grow in grace through loving relationships with other believers. Love is a committed love. God's love is best expressed in the context of committed relationships (see the document).
4. **Leaders are shepherds.** Disciples grow in grace under the care of shepherds after God's own heart (see the document).
5. **Habits form us.** Disciples grow in grace through gospel-shaped structures, spiritual disciplines, and life rhythms. Disciples grow best when there is a healthy relationship between duty and delight, habits and heart.
6. **Worship by the Word:** Our worship services will be ordered by the Word of God and designed to form disciples in the gospel of Jesus Christ (see the document).
7. **Glasses:** Our education programs will seek to “teach the faith and form the mind” through systematic biblical and theological instruction and training for all ages.
8. **Groups:** Our small groups ministry will be mainly sermon-based and designed to form God's people in the context of committed community.
9. **Equipping:** We will equip the whole body for the work of the ministry, including “faithful men” for pastoral ministry.
10. **Evangelism:** Our evangelism ministry will mainly train and mobilize members for evangelism.
11. **Missions:** Our missions policy will prioritize church planting and evangelism.
12. **Membership:** Our covenant membership process will be for the church, not for God's people.
 - a. It will allow the congregation to exercise its authority in receiving members into the church.
 - b. It will encourage believers to live their lives in a manner visible to the church (see the Membership Covenant)
13. **Elders:** We are an elder-led church. Our elders' will shepherd the church.
 - a. They will know the flock.
 - b. They will feed the flock.
 - c. They will lead the flock.
 - d. They will protect the flock.
14. **Congregationalism:** We are a congregational church. While Christ is the head of the church, the congregation is the highest “court of appeals” in the church. The congregation will exercise its authority, when it's gathered, in the following areas:
 - a. Doctrine
 - b. Discipline
 - c. Determining members and officers
 - d. Distribution of Resources

What is our mission?

We exist to make disciples who glorify God as the grace of the gospel grows deep in God's people and goes wide to all peoples.

- Disciples are fundamentally worshipers of God (Mt. 22:37-40; 28:9, 16-20).
- Participation in corporate worship is a significant way disciples worship God.
- Participation in corporate worship is a significant means of forming disciples.

How do we make disciples/worshipers in our corporate worship services?

- **By the Word:** The Word does the work (1 Thess. 2:13)! As the body of Christ speaks the Word of God to one another in the power of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 2:1-5), the grace of the gospel grows deep in God's people.
 - We will read the Word (1 Tim. 4:13).
 - We will preach the Word (Acts 2:42; 2 Tim. 4:2).
 - We will pray the Word (Acts 2:42; 1 Tim. 2:1, 8; Jas. 5:16).
 - We will sing the Word (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16).
 - We will see the Word (in Baptism and the Lord's Supper) (Mt. 28:19; 1 Cor. 11:24).
- **By singing to one another:** This specific Word-ministry is a responsibility of the whole body (Eph. 5:19). By singing to one another the Word of Christ will dwell richly in God's people (Col. 3:15-17).
 - Therefore, the songs we sing will contain Word-rich lyrics.
 - Therefore, the voice of the congregation will be the primary instrument.
 - Therefore, the songs will be primarily participatory.
 - Therefore, the commitment to praise God and build one another up will take precedent over musical preferences.
- **By a revelation-response rhythm:** God initiates relationship with his people through his revealed Word; God's people should respond to God in worship (cf. Lk. 5:1-11; Isa. 6:1-9).
 - Therefore, we will start our worship with the Word (revelation).
 - Therefore, we will seek to make the communication of the Word (revelation) clear and intelligible to believers and unbelievers (Col. 4:4; 1 Cor. 14:22-25).
 - We are called to worship in spirit and in truth (Jn. 4:23), therefore, the appropriate response to the Word (revelation) will include both the head and the heart.
- **By re-presenting the gospel:** Structures and rhythms form us in addition to the Word; therefore, we will use the following structure in our worship which embodies the gospel in order to grow deep in the gospel:
 - **Glory:** Corporate worship will begin with the glory of God.
 - **Grace:**
 - Guilt: In view of God's glory, we see our guilt and will confess our sins.
 - Gospel: In view of our guilt, we will then hear the gospel.
 - Gratitude: In view of the gospel, we will then respond in gratitude.
 - **Go:** As the grace of the gospel grows deep in us, it will encourage and equip us to go wide with the gospel. Corporate worship will, therefore, end with a sending benediction.
- **By gathering regularly as the body of Christ:**
 - We will gather regularly for corporate worship because God uses this regular gathering to build his church (Heb. 10:24-25).

Tentative Class Scope and Sequences for Adult Classes

Scope and Sequence for Children's Sunday morning

| Fall Semester | | | | Spring Semester | | | | Summer | | | |
|---|---------------------|-------------|---------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|---------------------|
| Membership | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Closer Look | What is the Gospel? | Closer Look | What is the Gospel? | Closer Look | What is the Gospel? | Closer Look | What is the Gospel? | Closer Look | What is the Gospel? | Closer Look | What is the Gospel? |
| Foundations | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Foundations of the Christian Faith | | | Life in Christ | | | Storyline of the Bible | | | How to Study the Bible | | |
| Bible Overview | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Old Testament I | | | Old Testament II | | | New Testament I | | | New Testament II | | |
| History & Theology | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Systematic Theology I | | | Systematic Theology II | | | Biblical Theology | | | Church History | | |
| Christian Roles | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Biblical Manhood, Womanhood & Sexuality | | | Singleness & Courtship | | | Marriage | | | Parenthood | | |
| Christian Discipleship | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Disciple-Making | | | The Church | | | Spiritual Disciplines | | | Peacemaking & Biblical Counseling | | |
| Engaging the World | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Missions | | | Evangelism & Other Faiths | | | Apologetics | | | Ethics | | |
| Ongoing Adult Bible Fellowships (ABFs) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ABFs are ongoing mid-size groups that typically focus on prayer, fellowship and Scripture studies. For more information on specific ABFs go to www.firstfreenichita.org/abf . | | | | | | | | | | | |

Nursery

Presch

Elementary

Babies
A Fragrance of the Knowledge of Christ
 Creating an atmosphere of Christ.

Toddlers
The Wonders He Has Done
 Foundation of truth is built using simple truth statements about who God is and what he has done (4 repeated stories).

2 yrs
His Praiseworthy Deeds
 Continued teaching on the marvelous deeds of the Lord in the Old and New Testaments.

3 yrs
He Established a Testimony
 The greatness of God is explored using chronologically arranged Old Testament stories.

Kindergarten
What a Savior
 Chronological study of redemption focusing on God's plan of salvation through Jesus Christ.

1st Grade
The ABC's of God
 Theological lessons on the greatness of God by examining attributes.

3rd Grade
In the Beginning, Jesus
 Chronological study through the Old Testament on the

4th Grade
To Be Like Jesus
 Focuses on the work of salvation and how it then leads to be like Jesus.

Small groups are built around First Free's Membership Covenant and are the primary way we encourage people to grow deep.

Growing Deep

Bible

Building one another up with the Word through sermon-based discussion.

Fellowship

Encouraging one another in the faith through committed community.

Prayer

Lifting up the needs of the group, the church, and the world through prayer.



Learn more at firstfreewichita.org/groups.

Evangelism

- It's a core practice that we hope everyone at First Free will engage
- Training
 - Way of the Master, Everyday Evangelism, and The Bridge are
 - Periodic Sunday morning evangelism classes
- Resources
 - Gospels of Luke and other booklets available to give away
 - Special evangelism initiatives
 - Neighbor Day
 - Easter 1K Project
 - Random Acts of Kindness Cards
 - Evangelistic Bible study materials available
 - What is the Gospel? class

Going Wide

Compassion

Evangelism

Missions

Partnering with one another in going wide with the gospel.

Missions

- Vision
 - Missions is 25% of the total budget at First Free as we partner both global and local.
 - 50% of the missions budget to ministry among unreach less than 2% Evangelical Christian)
 - 30% to local missions in Wichita and Kansas to reach t
 - 20% to other development ministries
 - Short-term missions are in partnership with long-term partne
- Core Values
 - Word & Prayer
 - Local Church
 - Indigenous Leadership
 - Partnership
 - Trust
 - Health
 - Team

Compassion

- Orphan and widow care
 - Adoption and foster care ministries
 - Support groups for parents of special needs kids
 - Care for the elderly
- Service projects
 - Relief teams
 - Partnerships with local missions
 - Rides to church for those who need them
- Benevolence
 - A special offering on the first Sunday of the month
 - Dedicated to those in our church and community in need

Local church membership is the decision to commit and submit to Christ and his church, for the glory of God and the good of God's people.

Biblical Foundations

Most of the references to the church in the NT are references to the local church (cf. Body; Family).

The local church has been given the responsibility to recognize a right profession of faith (Matt 16:18).

1. Jesus has the authority to affirm a profession of faith.
2. Jesus gives his apostles the authority to affirm a profession of faith.
3. Jesus gives the local church the authority to affirm a profession of faith.

Practical Applications

At First Free there is really only one thing required for membership, expressed in three requirements.

1. A profession of faith.
2. Agreement with our Statement of Faith.
3. Agreement with our membership covenant

Membership also allows you to do three things at this that you otherwise couldn't do:

1. Vote
2. Serve in elected offices
3. Serve on committees

Membership Covenant

In applying for membership, and upon becoming a member, at First Evangelical Free Church of we will gladly covenant with God and fellow members in the mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ, glorify God as the grace of the gospel grows deep in God's people and goes wide to all peoples.

As I join with my fellow believers in this commitment, I sincerely affirm that:

- I believe the gospel and profess Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior.
- I agree with the Statement of Faith.

I gladly covenant with God and my fellow believers to love one another in the body of Christ and to live in alignment with the Word of God. (Jn. 13:34; cf. 1 Cor. 13)

- I will build up others in the body with the Word.
- I will pray with and for others in the body.
- I will gather with the body regularly to worship.
- I will serve and care for others in the body using my spiritual gifts.
- I will give generously to care for the needs of the body and to support our mission.
- I will partner with the body in evangelism and missions.
- I will submit to the authority and discipline of the church.

As a member of First Evangelical Free Church I understand that the church body affirms my profession of faith and will hold me accountable to live a life that is consistent with the gospel (Phil. 1:27); and I commit to

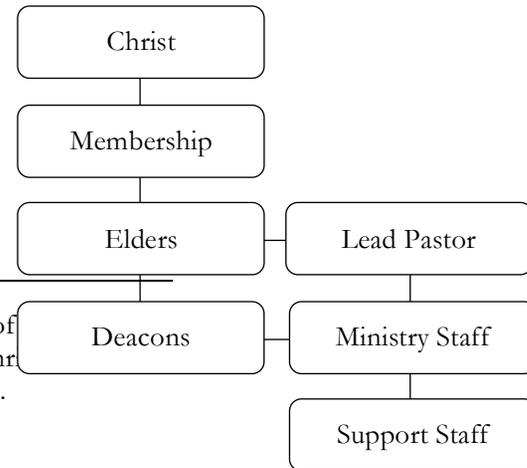
What are the responsibilities of an elder?

1. They must know the flock.
2. They must feed the flock.
3. They must lead the flock.
4. They must protect the flock.

What are the requirements for an elder?

How do we recruit elders?

Our Structure - Congregationalism



To quote Mar highest "court discipline, disj determining w the church.

Evangelical

Comes from the word *evangel* meaning “good news.” As an evangelical church, our desire is to bring the good news – that Christ died for our sins – to God’s people and to all peoples. Being evangelical means we are committed to the authority of Scriptures as the only safe and sufficient guide to faith and practice.

Free

Refers to our form of church government. As a local church, we are free from a central controlling denominational body. We are autonomous in our direction and decisions as a local church and in association with other Evangelical Free Churches.

Our Affiliation

We belong to an association of churches called the Evangelical Free Churches of America (EFCA). The EFCA is an association of about 1,250 autonomous churches united by a mutual commitment to serve our Lord Jesus Christ with the guidance of the Holy Spirit and obedience to the Word of God. These churches from around the country partner in numerous ways, including support for over 600 career and short-term missionaries serving in 40 nations around the world. EFCA is also related to Trinity International University, which includes a seminary, a law school, and a liberal arts college.

The ministries of the EFCA include urban/intercultural missions, foreign missions, church planting, men’s and women’s ministries and the National Prayer Advance.

For more information about the EFCA, visit their web site at www.efca.org.

First Evangelical Free Church of Wichita, Kansas, was started as a joint effort of the Evangelical Free Church of America. A Sunday school was established at this church in 1911. The church was planted by Rev. E. C. Schumacher. The membership was 100. The first church building was built and dedicated September 23, 1951. Other pastors were Rev. E. C. Smith (1953) and Rev. Marlin Jones (1959).

Tragedy struck the church body on November 2, 1961, when Robbie Jones accidentally killed himself in the street beside the church. This event proved to be a spiritual hardens, ultimately resulting in about twenty persons accepting Christ. Members of our current church family came here in the 1950s and early 1960s. In 1965 capacity was reached in the first church building. At that time, a decision was made to move to the current site at 1825 N. Woodlawn in Northeast Wichita. Construction of the new church building was completed on September 24, 1967. There have been several additions to the original construction: 1971 - additional classrooms, 1981 - additional classrooms, 1986 - courtyard enclosure, 1994 - new worship center.

Pastor R. W. Hauser accepted the call of the growing congregation in May 1975. Pastor Andrus came as our fifth pastor. During Pastor Andrus’ ministry, the membership grew to 800. Also during this time, East and West EFC were planted in Wichita from First Free.

Pastor Tom Macy came in August 1985 as our sixth senior pastor. The church continued to grow and completed the latter three facility additions during his ministry. During his ministry, the church helped plant Hilltop Urban Church (inner city) and Genesis EFC (a Spanish speaking church). Pastor Macy concluded his ministry at First Free in September 2003.

Pastor Andrus returned in February of 2004 to serve as the Interim Pastor. He once again assumed the position of Lead Pastor in January 2005. He held that position until when leadership was passed to Josh Black.

First Free serves more than 1,600 people with a weekly Sunday attendance of approximately 1,000. We have strong children, youth and adult ministries that weekly address the needs of our congregation. We have an active history of mission involvement throughout the world. We regularly support other churches in church planting throughout our state. In addition to these efforts, members from our church family serve as volunteers throughout the Wichita area. We are committed to the corporate life of our church.

EFCA Statement of Faith

The Evangelical Free Church of America is an association of autonomous churches united around these theological convictions:

Article 1: God

[God's gospel originates in and expresses the wondrous perfections of the eternal, triune God.⁵]

We believe in one God, Creator of all things, holy, infinitely perfect, and eternally existing in three equally divine Persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Having limitless knowledge and sovereign power, God has graciously purposed from eternity to redeem a people for himself and to make all things new for His own glory.

Article 2: The Bible

[God's gospel is authoritatively revealed in the Scriptures.]

We believe that God has spoken in the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, through the words of human authors. As the verbally inspired Word of God, the Bible is without error in the original languages, a complete revelation of his will for salvation, and the ultimate authority by which every realm of knowledge and endeavor should be judged. Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises.

Article 3: The Human Condition

[God's gospel alone addresses our deepest need.]

We believe that God created Adam and Eve in his image, but they sinned when tempted by Satan. With Adam, human beings are sinners by nature and by choice, alienated from God, and under his wrath. Only through God's saving work in Jesus Christ can we be rescued, reconciled and renewed.

Article 4: Jesus Christ

[God's gospel is made known supremely in the Person of Jesus Christ.]

We believe that Jesus Christ is God incarnate, fully God and fully man, one Person in two natures. Jesus—Israel's promised Messiah—was conceived through the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father as our High Priest and Advocate.

Article 5: The Work of Christ

[God's gospel is accomplished through the work of Christ.]

We believe that Jesus Christ, as our representative and substitute, shed his blood on the cross as the perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice for our sins. His atoning death and victorious resurrection constitute the only ground for salvation.

Article 6: The Holy Spirit

[God's gospel is applied by the power of the Holy Spirit.]

We believe that the Holy Spirit, in all that He does, glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ. He convicts the world of its guilt. He regenerates sinners, and in him they are baptized into union with Christ and adopted as heirs in the family of God. He also indwells, illuminates, guides, equips and empowers believers for Christ-like living and service.

We believe that the true church comprises all who have been justified by Christ alone. They are united by the Holy Spirit in the body of Christ, of which the church is manifest in local churches, whose membership should be composed of those who have been justified by Christ alone. Jesus mandated two ordinances, baptism and the Lord's Supper, which vis-à-vis the gospel. Though they are not the means of salvation, when celebrated by the church, these ordinances confirm and nourish the believer.

Article 8: Christian Living

[God's gospel compels us to Christ-like living and witness.]

We believe that God's justifying grace must not be separated from His sanctifying grace. We believe that God commands us to love him supremely and others sacrificially, and to live out our love for one another, compassion toward the poor and justice for the oppressed. With prayer and fervent prayer in Christ's name, we are to combat the spiritual forces of evil. In obedience to His commission, we are to make disciples among all people, always bearing witness to His gospel.

Article 9: Christ's Return

[God's gospel will be brought to fulfillment by the Lord Jesus Christ.]

We believe in the personal, bodily and premillennial return of our Lord Jesus Christ. His return, a time known only to God, demands constant expectancy and, as our blessed hope, calls for a life of godly living, sacrificial service and energetic mission.

Article 10: Response and Eternal Destiny

[God's gospel requires a response that has eternal consequences.]

We believe that God commands everyone everywhere to believe the gospel and receive the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that God will raise the dead, assigning the unbeliever to condemnation and eternal conscious punishment, and the believer to blessedness and joy with the Lord in the new heaven and the new earth, to which we look with anticipation.

Amen